Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/1044473460/

Daily National Intelligencer and Washington Express (Washington, District of Columbia) · Thu, Jul 2, 1863 · Page 2
Downloaded on May 21, 2025

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

This institution, which, like other meritorious things, is too little known in our community, held its Annual Commencement on Friday last. Threatening weather and difficulty of access from the city at a convenient hour prevented the assembling of a numerous audience on the occasion, but the number of interested spectators was large enough to give ample animation to the exercises, which were as follows:

Prayer, by Pres. Onderdonk.
French Poem, Beranger.....Henry Eustick Onderdonk.
Absalom, Willis.....John S. Gittings, jr.
Spartacus to Gladiators, Epes
Sargeant.....W. T. S. Turpin.
British Aggression, Patrick Henry.....Joshua N. Warfield.
Greek Recitation, Bible.....S. D. Hall.
Oration, Otis.....J. W. Iglehart.
Latin Recitation, Virgil.....Franklin Waters.
Alfred to his Men, Knowles.....E. S. Calvert.

ORIGINAL THESES.

Locomotion.....William B. Todd, jr.
Observation and Valedictory.....C. B. Calvert, jr.

Testimonials Awarded—Degrees Conferred.

Address, by.....Rev. B. B. Griswold.
Benediction, by.....Rev. Mr. Chew.

Suppose the above to be interspersed with the music of a very sweet and well adjusted Band; add to this the fact that the selections were well made and of a moderate length; observe that the applause, though hearty, was not vociferous or unmannerly; moreover, that all was concluded in the timely space of little more than three hours, and it need hardly be said that the visiter passed a very agreeable morning.

The candidates for a diploma performed their parts with much credit to themselves and their instructors; and the President's address to the young graduates was full of vigor and impressiveness, not to mention a vein of poetic thought, which only lacked a little versification to make it better poetry than three-fourths of what is published under that name.

Of the Rev. Mr. Griswold's address it must suffice to say that it presented very forcibly the supremacy of the spiritual in man, and the doubtful goodness of all powers and attainments, whether physical or mental, if unconnected with moral excellence.

In the course of studies at this College it appears that there are five "schools"—those of Ancient Languages, Modern Languages, Natural Science, English, and Mathematics. Every student must attend at least *two* of these schools. The degree of Bachelor of Arts is received for those who graduate in *four* of them.

In the exercises of the day one point of excellence apparent to the casual observer was the style of pronunciation in the languages, evidencing an attention to that *finish* of scholarship which is so rarely met with in the teachings of these utilitarian times.

The entymological department and museum of model led fruits, &c. exhibit marvellous care and industry, resulting in the collection of such an assemblage of specimens as is hardly to be met with elsewhere.

The excellent order and suitable appointments of the College buildings were very observable, and showed that the health and comfort of the students had been made distinct objects of attention, and that very successfully.

The general idea of such institutions—that of affording to the youths of an agricultural region the opportunity of learning what science has reached and applied to good purpose to rural affairs, while at the same time they receive a good college education—commends itself to the common sense of all thinking men, and ought to receive a much larger share of attention than is at present given to it. On the 100th page of the Preliminary Report of the Eighth Census we find, under the head of "Agricultural Schools and Colleges," a paragraph which is well worth quoting:

"But few agricultural schools are in successful operation, although several have been established. New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan, and Iowa have each one; and one or more are about to be established in other States. It does not argue well for the agricultural taste of our people that while we are in advance of most European countries in the number of our common schools and colleges, we are greatly behind some of them in institutions designed to teach the innumerable applications of science to agriculture, and to elevate and throw a charm around this noble employment."

In the recent commencement exercises of this State institution of Maryland no traces of the agricultural studies appeared, though the beauty of the college grounds, with the terraced parterres of flowers in front of the building, and the magnificent farm-lands which surrounded it, made their own suggestions to the mind of an observer. It is to be supposed that there is "more than meets the eye" in the agricultural department here, else disappointment would be felt at not finding something like a model barn and stables, beehives, a conservatory, scientific drainage, manure cisterns, choice stock, specimen graftings, and all the other thousand and one improvements which one would like to see adopted on the estates of the gentlemen of Maryland. True, all these things require time, and this particular institution is newly established; but being the nearest to the capital of the country, having great advantages as regards climate and position, being moreover in intimate relations with the headquarters of the Agricultural Department and the Patent Office, much is naturally to be expected of it as the *leading* Agricultural College of the land.

ANGLO-SINENSIS.

Maryland Agricultural College

Clipped By:
C_St_Reed
May 21, 2025

Copyright © 2025 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.